

REMARKS

Election

Applicant hereby elects Group I, now consisting of claims 1-4, without traverse.

Priority Claim

Attorney for applicant wishes to point out that the reference cited by the Examiner, Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-284596, was published on October 3, 2002, which was less than a year before the PCT filing date of this application (July 30, 2003), and was after the priority date (July 31, 2002) asserted by the present invention.

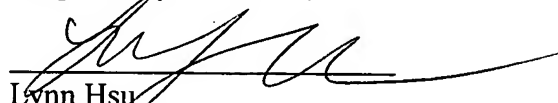
Accordingly, the intervening Japanese publication is not prior art to the present application under 35 U.S.C. Section 102.

Should any questions arise, the Patent Office is invited to telephone attorney for applicants at 212-490-3285.

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Respectfully submitted,


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